ABSTRACT

An electronic system facilitates the clinician-patient encounter and serves as a single point of integration for all electronic health care information systems. A physician selects a diagnosis, which is converted from the physician's preferred terminology to a standard ICD diagnosis. The system then proposes a preferred treatment appropriate to the selected diagnosis. The physician can change any items of the proposed treatment plan, with changes being checked against payor rules, prior patient information and selected authorities' guidelines. If a diagnosis or treatment element is not authorized by the payor for the selected diagnosis, the system notifies the physician, allowing changes or offering electronic request for payor authorization. Additionally, the system may indicate those diagnoses for which payor allows said elements, allowing the physician to choose a diagnosis that is consistent with the patient's symptoms and supports the desired treatment. Upon accepting a diagnostic and treatment plan, the plan elements are preferably carried out automatically. For example, payor authorizations are requested as necessary, prescriptions are transmitted to the patient's preferred pharmacy, laboratory tests are ordered, and tests, referrals, and appointments are scheduled electronically.